

I could go on, but let me just end with health.

Every year there are over 80,000 excess deaths in people of color, deaths that could and should and must be prevented. Every minority group suffers some health disparity: African Americans and American Indians and Alaskan Natives more than most. Many of these deaths and the countless disproportionate disabilities could be prevented with the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

It is health injustice that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., called the most shocking and inhumane. The countless and seemingly endless years of these tragic health iniquities and the millions of people who have suffered because of them also cry out for justice.

It is for ending these and other injustices that John Payton dedicated his life. In an article in the Civil Rights Monitor, he said:

The problems of race and inequality in our country have proven to be enduring and deep-seated in nature. But we must recognize that this is a marathon and not a race if we are to find solutions that work.

We are grateful for the leg of the marathon that he ran and the progress that he made in this race while he was with us.

To his wife, Gay; his sisters, Janette Oliver and Susan Grissom; his brother, Glen Spears; the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; and his many colleagues and friends, I join my CBC colleagues in offering our sincere condolences and those on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, equality and justice are the underpinnings of our society. By adhering to the rule of law, we as a society place tremendous trust and faith in our judicial system to do what is righteous and just. The judicial branch of government, as established by the Founding Fathers, is the necessary check on the Executive and Legislative branches. Article III of the Constitution guarantees the right to a fair trial and a jury of one's peers.

Justice is not something to be taken lightly or for granted. The integrity of our justice system is only as good as the people who participate in it.

We must continue to work to uphold the integrity of the judicial system by embedding these guiding principles into the fabric of society for future generations.

With the passing of John Payton, we lost a true civil rights pioneer and someone who fought every day to uphold the rule of law. Mr. Payton was a fierce advocate for equality and justice during a time, not so long ago, when such protections under the law were not enjoyed by all.

Mr. Payton frequently appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court, in passionate battles to win equal rights for minorities. Mr. Payton showed us that there was still much work to be done—and now, millions more Americans can enjoy greater equality and enhanced protection from discrimination as a result of his contributions, in pursuing this ideal.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is still a beacon and a moral compass for the rest of the civilized world.

Not only do the people of this country rely on us for our guidance, but so do the people around the globe. As we once again find ourselves fighting to advance social progress, we must ensure that we continue to move forward by upholding the integrity of our laws and our judicial system.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. EDWARDS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 17 on account of family health emergency.

Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of work in the district.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of personal reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5522. A letter from the Chief Information Officer, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Interlibrary Loan Fee Schedule (RIN: 0518-AA04) received March 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5523. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2-ethylhexyl ester, telomere with 1-dodecanethiol, ethenylbenzene and 2-methyloxiraine polymer with oxirane monoether with 1,2-propanediol mono(2-methyl-2-propenoate), hydrogen 2-sulfobutanedioate, sodium salt, 2, 2'—(1,2-diazenediyl)bis[[2-methylpropanenitrile] initiated; Tolerance Exception [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0975; FRL-9339-9] received March 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5524. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acetamidiprid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0403; FRL-9340-7] received March 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5525. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of 7 officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5526. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmit-

ting a proposed change to the Fiscal Year 2010 National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation (NGREA) procurement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5527. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report on operations of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) in accordance with section 11(a) of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpiling Act as amended (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.) detailing NDS operations during the Period of October 2010 through September 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5528. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on activities under the Secretary's personnel management demonstration project authorities for the Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5529. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Rear Admiral (lower half) Sinclair M. Harris, United States Navy, to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of rear admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5530. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting fiscal year 2011 Performance Report to Congress for the Animal Drug User Fee Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5531. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting fiscal year 2011 Performance Report to Congress for the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5532. A letter from the Correspondence and Regulations Assistant, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicaid Program; Eligibility Changes under the Affordable Care Act of 2010 [CMS-2349-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ62) received March 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5533. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans; Exchange Standards for Employers [CMS-9989-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ67) received March 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5534. A letter from the Correspondence and Regulations Assistant, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Standards Related to Reinsurance, Risk Corridors and Risk Adjustment [CMS-9975-F] (RIN: 0938-AR07) received March 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5535. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Processing, Packing, or Holding of Drugs; Revision of Certain Labeling Controls [Docket No.: FDA-1997-N-0518] (formerly 97N-0300) received March 27, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5536. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oral Dosage Form New Animal Drugs; Phenylpropanolamine [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0003] received March 27, 2012, pursuant to 5